UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/203
25 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 98 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/586)*]

54/203. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,[1] the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,[2] the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[3] and its resolutions 52/208 of 18 December 1997 and 53/177 of 15 December 1998, and taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1999/270 of 28 July 1999 concerning the implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development,

Recalling also the Declaration on Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997,[4] and the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its thirteenth meeting, held at Accra in May 1997,[5] and taking note of the final communiqué of the first meeting of the Patrons Group of Heads of State and Government

[1] Resolution S-18/3, annex.

[2] Resolution 45/199, annex.

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[4] A/52/465, annex II, document AHG/Decl.4 (XXXIII).

[5] See A/52/480, sect. IV.C.

of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted at Algiers on 13 July 1999,[6] and the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, held at Dakar on 20 and 21 October 1999,

Taking note of the statement of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, held at Algiers in September 1999, to the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and resolution 2 (XIV) on the African common position on globalization, adopted by the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Dakar on 22 and 23 October 1999,[7] both of which recognize the critical need for support for African countries in addressing the supply-side constraints on their integration into the world economy,

Recognizing the importance of industrialization as a key element in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, and also its role in facilitating efforts for the eradication of poverty through, *inter alia*, promotion of competitiveness, productive employment, capacity-building, gender-mainstreaming and effective and efficient management systems,

Recognizing also the commendable efforts of African countries to engage their respective private sectors in policy dialogue at the highest levels and to improve further the capacity of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises,

Recognizing further the need for African countries to continue their efforts to create a climate favourable to private sector development and foreign direct investment and also the commitment of African countries to using both human and financial resources more efficiently in the process of industrialization, and emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic initiatives and international support, *inter alia*, through enhanced official development assistance, investment guarantees, debt-for-industrial development swaps, as appropriate, and enhanced market access,

Welcoming the reform and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as its new approach of providing comprehensive packages of integrated services to promote sustainable industrial development in African countries and its approach to field activities through joint programming with the United Nations resident coordinator system in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, where appropriate, and commending the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for initiating closer collaboration with the World Trade Organization, with the participation of their secretariats and the States Members of the United Nations and observer States, with a view to, *inter alia*, contributing to efforts towards enhancing market access, as appropriate, for African industrial products,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the African countries that have yet to do so to integrate the objectives of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, as appropriate, into their national plans for the establishment of institutional capacity for monitoring programmes and related projects;

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[6] A/54/320, annex.

[7] See E/ECA/CAMI.14/99/10, annex IV.

[8] A/54/320.

3. *Invites* the international community, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional institutions to support the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization,[5] including the outcome of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa;

4. *Appeals* to the international community, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates, to support the efforts of the African countries to intensify and to expand industrial cooperation among themselves;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its close working relationship with the World Trade Organization and other relevant multilateral institutions, with the participation of their secretariats and the States Members of the United Nations and observer States, for the provision of technical assistance to African countries, particularly the least developed among them, so as to enhance their capacity to overcome technical barriers to trade in industrial and other products, including improving quality standards to alleviate supply-side constraints, and to promote industrial competitiveness within the context of the integrated framework initiative in order to enable them to integrate fully into the world economy;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in coordination with the United Nations system, to support African countries in the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/204
25 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 98 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/586)*]

54/204. Business and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/209 of 18 December 1997 on business and development and 51/191 of 16 December 1996 on the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,

Noting the adoption of relevant conventions by the International Labour Organization relating to labour,

Recalling the successful outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, including the commitments contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit,[2] and calling for the implementation of those commitments,

Noting the important efforts of the United Nations system to facilitate the active and constructive involvement of the private sector in the development process and the efforts of the Secretary-General to create partnerships with the private sector in this regard,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors in accordance with its priorities,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

Emphasizing that business and industry, including corporations engaged in international business activities, can contribute substantially to a country's economic and social development and environmental protection, and are important generators of employment and economic growth,

Reaffirming the importance, in the context of national development efforts, of promoting appropriate privatization, competition, entrepreneurship and a supportive legal and fiscal framework for business so as to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the important role of small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-financing in supporting economic and social development,

Recognizing also that a dynamic business sector is essential to economic growth, job creation, trade expansion and technology development,

Recognizing further the link among effective, accountable and transparent administration of the public sector, financial transparency in the private sector, investor confidence and the stability of financial systems,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector, including corporations engaged in international business activities, to strengthen partnerships so as to advance sustainable development through, *inter alia*, supporting the stable functioning of the international finance and trade system and investment flows, particularly in support of the development efforts of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

3. *Encourages* Governments to create an environment that enables businesses to conduct their activities in a humane, sustainable and socially responsible way;

4. *Urges* all Governments to create an enabling environment for business and investment, including through sound macroeconomic, fiscal and development policies, the rule of law, anti-corruption and anti-bribery efforts, and transparent business practices that promote efficiency, fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

5. *Urges* the private sector, including corporations engaged in international business activities, to pursue orderly and fair business practices while adhering to and promoting the principles of honesty, transparency and accountability in international commercial transactions, with a view to contributing to efforts to create an enabling environment for business and investment;

6. *Requests* the international community, including the business community and relevant international bodies, to consider ways and means of promoting such principles and practices and respect for those practices by multinational companies in their operations in all countries;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization;

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[3] A/54/451.

8. *Strongly stresses* the need for adequate resources, including the provision of new and additional resources from all sources, and transfer of technology on favourable terms, *inter alia*, on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, to developing countries, particularly to Africa and the least developed countries, for developing appropriate infrastructure and business services to promote entrepreneurship;

9. *Recognizes* the special development priorities and concerns of developing countries, and in this regard calls for international support for the realization of their development goals, *inter alia*, through the promotion of business and entrepreneurship;

10. *Stresses* the importance of micro-finance, including micro-credit, to people living in poverty, in allowing them to undertake the establishment of micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to the achievement of empowerment, particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of micro-financing, in particular micro-credit;

11. *Values* the promotion of entrepreneurship, *inter alia*, through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

12. *Stresses* the importance, in the context of establishing and maintaining adequate social safety nets, including assistance to workers, of encouraging investment in human resources through programmes devoted to health, education and job training, and recognizes that such efforts are an integral part of overall poverty reduction strategies;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide a forum for intergovernmental discussions concerning issues related to private sector development and international flows of investment, with input from representatives of the private sector;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to strengthen further their activities, in particular those concerning Africa and the least developed countries, in the promotion of entrepreneurship development, especially with respect to small and medium-sized enterprises, and calls upon the international community to lend its support, where appropriate, to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to strengthen support for the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in their work in implementing the present resolution, to give due consideration to the role of the business sector in development, taking into account the priorities set by each country, while ensuring a gender perspective;

16. *Calls upon* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and agreed work programmes, to continue to assist Member States, at their request, in implementing national programmes to create an enabling environment for business, investment and development;

17. *Stresses* the need to continue to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, in strengthening their capacity to encourage wider participation of the private sector in their economies;

18. *Invites* relevant United Nations organizations, within their mandates and in consultation with Governments, to promote meaningful contributions by business, in both the public and the private sectors, in support of economic growth and sustainable development;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Business and development", and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations, to submit at that session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/205
27 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 98 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/586)*]

54/205. Prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/176 of 15 December 1998 on action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Recognizing the importance of existing international and national laws for combating corruption in international commercial transactions,

Recognizing also the important role of the business community, in particular the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and the need to create an enabling environment for business in order to facilitate economic growth and development of developing countries, most especially African countries,

Mindful of the very important role that the private sector can play in fostering economic growth and development and of the active involvement of the United Nations system in facilitating the constructive participation and orderly interaction of the private sector in the development process by embracing universal principles and norms, such as honesty, transparency and accountability,

1. *Condemns* corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds;

2. *Calls* for further international and national measures to combat corrupt practices and bribery in international transactions and for international cooperation in support of these measures;

3. *Also calls* for, while recognizing the importance of national measures, increased international cooperation, *inter alia*, through the United Nations system, in devising ways and means of preventing and addressing illegal transfers, as well as in repatriating illegally transferred funds to their countries of origin, and calls upon all countries and entities concerned to cooperate in this regard;

4. *Requests* the international community to support the efforts of all countries aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds;

5. *Decides* to keep this matter under review, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to include in the report called for in its resolution 53/176, to be submitted at its fifty-fifth session, information on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations, *inter alia*, with regard to repatriating illegally transferred funds to their countries of origin.

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/206
27 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 99 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/587/Add.1)*]

54/206. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 45/234 of 21 December 1990, 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993, 49/92 of 19 December 1994, 51/173 of 16 December 1996 and 53/178 of 15 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, and the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recalling also the results, as agreed, of all the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the efforts made to implement the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in the 1990s, and stresses the need to strengthen such actions in collaboration with, *inter alia*, efforts taken in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[3] and its implementing arm, the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;[4]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other relevant international organizations, to submit to the General Assembly, for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, an update of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, with the aim of giving further impetus to international cooperation for development and of monitoring long-term trends in the global economy as well as the attainment of internationally agreed targets:

(*a*) Building on the outcomes, *inter alia*, of the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held during the 1990s, the Agenda for Development[1] and any other relevant ongoing processes related to international cooperation for development;

(*b*) Taking into account the dynamic changes to the world economy resulting from, *inter alia*, globalization, interdependence and liberalization and the rapid advances in science and technology;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to initiate consultations with all Member States with a view to establishing the modalities for the consideration and conclusion of the proposal of the Secretary-General called for in paragraph 4 above at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

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[2] A/54/389.

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[4] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990* (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Sustainable development and international cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/207
27 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 99 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/587/Add.2)*]

54/207. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, in which, *inter alia*, it decided that the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) would be held in June 2001 for a period of three working days, and that the Commission on Human Settlements should serve as the Preparatory Committee for the special session,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as Preparatory Committee for the special session on its organizational session,[1]

1. *Endorses* the decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the Preparatory Committee for the special session, in particular regarding its rules of procedure and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for its first substantive session;[2]

[1] See A/54/322.

[2] Ibid., chaps. V and VI.

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999